

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00  
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00  
(ISO) R

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APPROVED BY ARA - AMB. VAKY  
ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY  
PM - MS. CLAPP  
ACDA - MS. WATSON  
ARA/MEX - MR. SIMCOX  
ARA - MR. ARELLANO  
-----028230 142043Z /44

O 141509Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 178038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CAT, VE, MX

SUBJECT: CAT III: BRIEFING FOR VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN  
GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 125277(NOTAL)

1. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS AT  
APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON THIRD ROUND OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS  
TALKS (CAT) BETWEEN US AND USSR, OPENING JULY 18 IN  
HELSINKI. AS GOV WAS INFORMED PURSUANT REFTTEL, THIS ROUND  
WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITH REGARD  
TO LATIN AMERICA. (ATTENTION OF GOM HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY  
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BEEN DRAWN TO LATIN AMERICAN ANGLE, ALTHOUGH IT IS AWARE  
OF PLANNED HELSINKI TALKS.) OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IN  
THAT RESPECT WILL BE TO OBTAIN PUBLIC SOVIET SUPPORT FOR  
THE ARMS RESTRAINT INITIATIVE OF THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES  
CURRENTLY UNDER WAY AND TO SEEK EVENTUAL SOVIET COMMITMENT  
TO ABIDE BY ANY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT LATIN AMERICANS MAY  
NEGOTIATE.

2. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING JULY 17 WILL ANNOUNCE THAT "SOVIET UNION AND US WILL CONTINUE THEIR CONSULTATIONS IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, BEGINNING JULY 18, 1978, ON ISSUES RELATING TO LIMITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THE TWO COUNTRIES HELD

PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON THIS TOPIC IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 14-19, 1977, AND HELSINKI MAY 4-8, 1978. AMBASSADOR L. I. MENDELEVICH WILL REPRESENT SOVIET SIDE. LESLIE H. GELB, DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WILL REPRESENT THE AMERICAN SIDE."

3. STRESSING, AS BEFORE, THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING INFORMATION ON CAT CLOSELY, YOU MAY INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT WE PLAN TO CALL THE SOVIET DELEGATION'S ATTENTION TO THE JUNE 22 DECLARATION OF THE AYACUCHO COUNTRIES AS EVIDENCE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF LATIN AMERICAN EFFORTS AT SELF-RESTRAINT. WE WILL ALSO REFER TO MEXICAN SUPPORT FOR THE AYACUCHO EFFORT, ESPECIALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF BROADENING IT TO INCLUDE ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. WE WILL POINT OUT THAT THESE ARE RECIPIENT INITIATIVES, COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE ARMS EXPORTING STATES, AND THAT IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED THEY MUST REMAIN SO. BUT EQUALLY IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED, SUPPLIERS MUST COOPERATE. SEVERAL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN  
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RESTRAINT HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR LATIN AMERICAN EFFORTS BY ANY OR ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN COMBATTING THE ARGUMENT THAT ANY INITIATIVE IS DOOMED TO FAIL BECAUSE SUPPLIERS WILL COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER IN UNDERCUTTING IT.

4. WE HOPE THAT, IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF LATIN AMERICAN RESTRAINT, SOVIETS CAN BE INDUCED TO CONSIDER INTERIM RESTRAINTS ON THEIR CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS WHICH WOULD (1) BRING THEIR POLICY MORE INTO LINE WITH LONG-STANDING US POLICY ON ARMS EXPORTS TO LATIN AMERICA, AND (2) PREVENT SABOTAGING OF LATIN AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS BY LARGE, DESTABILIZING SALES THAT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR BUYER'S NEIGHBORS TO AGREE TO RESTRAINT. AS AN EXAMPLE, WE BELIEVE AGREEMENT ON NO-FIRST-INTRODUCTION INTO THE REGION OF AN ADVANCED OR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM RESTRAINT. NEED FOR INTERIM POLICIES MAY OF COURSE DISAPPEAR AS LATIN AMERICAN CONSENSUS DEVELOPS ON WHAT RESTRAINTS SUPPLIERS SHOULD APPLY.

5. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VENEZUELA AND MEXICO. WE WILL BRIEF THEM ON OUTCOME OF THIS CAT ROUND. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT AGREEMENT WITH USSR WILL BE QUICK AND EASY AND WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH GOV AND GOM SHOULD FUTURE ROUNDS ALSO INVOLVE LATIN AMERICA.

6. EMBASSY CABLES ON AYACUCHO AND CAT WHICH WILL REACH WASHINGTON AFTER JULY 14 SHOULD BE REPEATED INFO HELSINKI AND SLUGGED ATTENTION USDEL CAT - GEORGE JONES. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS, CONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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